

BOOK NOTICES

University of California Press

JAMES LAZELL. 2005. **Island: Fact and Theory in Nature**. (ISBN 0-520-23277-1, hbk.). University of California Press, Berkeley, CA 94704, U.S.A (**Orders:** California Princeton Fulfillment Services, 1445 Lower Ferry Road, Ewing, NJ 08618, U.S.A., 609-883-1759, 609-883-7413 fax; www.ucpress.edu). \$49.95, 382 pp., 40 color plates, b/w figures, 7" × 10".

From the dustcover:—"He presents compelling evidence that high levels of natural biodiversity underpin ecosystem resilience and stability, especially with respect to high-level consumers such as humans"

Island: Fact and Theory in Nature is broken up into six chapters. **1)** Ways of Looking at Diversity; **2)** How to Count Snakes—and Other Things; **3)** Putting Things Together; **4)** Great Guania and the Isles of Yesteryear; **5)** The Cast; **6)** Nature and Man. The author notes in the introduction that two major themes run through the book. "They are effectively its muscle and its blood. First, *diversity makes for stability, and that is good for us...* Second, *beware of ecological theories rendered as formulas.*"

PHILIP W. RUNDEL and ROBERT GUSTAFSON. 2005. **Introduction to the Plant Life of Southern California: Coast to Foothills**. (ISBN 0-520-23616-5, pbk.). University of California Press, Berkeley, CA 94704, U.S.A (**Orders:** California Princeton Fulfillment Services, 1445 Lower Ferry Road, Ewing, NJ 08618, U.S.A., 609-883-1759, 609-883-7413 fax; www.ucpress.edu). \$18.95, 316 pp., 311 color photos, 4 1/2" × 7 1/4".

Highlights from the back cover:—"Features 327 color photographs vividly illustrating the major plant communities; **Describes** more than 300 plant species; **Covers** the counties of Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, western Riverside, and San Bernardino, as well as the Channel Islands; **Includes** a list of parks and other public areas for viewing southern California's plant communities."

Common and Latin names are provided for all plants. Excellent color photographs illustrate the plant communities discussed as well as species of plants that dominate the communities.